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# BIRCH FUNDS STUDY HINTED

## Keating Wants Senate To Decide On Action

Washington, April 23 (AP)—Senator Keating, (R., N.Y.), wants the Senate to decide whether the John Birch Society should be required to account for "a potential income of over \$18,000,000 a year."

Keating, a member of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee, said today either that group or a specially created select Senate committee also should determine whether the militantly conservative society is resorting to "harassment, intimidation and economic blackmail" against its critics.

The Internal Security subcommittee is considering whether it has jurisdiction to investigate the society founded by Robert Welch, retired Belmont, (Mass.), candy manufacturer. Welch himself has requested an investigation by that subcommittee.

### Cotton Disagrees

Senator Cotton (R., N.H.), another subcommittee member disagreed with Keating. He said he didn't think the internal security unit had jurisdiction and saw no reason at this time for an investigation by any other congressional committee.

He said he doesn't believe the subcommittee should furnish "a publicity forum for those who desire to be investigated and wish to publicize their aims and purposes."

Keating, in a program recorded for television and radio stations in New York, said that all Americans must be alert to the "menace of communism" which the society is pledged to fight.

"The fact is, however," the Senator said, "that extremist organizations often do more harm than good in the fight against communism."

### Goals Noted

Keating said the John Birch Society claims chapters in 36 states and has a goal of 1,000,000 members.

"Under its dues schedule," the Senator added, "it has a potential income of over \$18,000,000 a year. Yet it is alleged that the society makes no accounting of its funds to its membership."

He said Congress should decide whether legislation is needed to require financial reports to the Government, such as are now required from labor unions.

There are also disturbing reports which indicate the society is resorting to various forms of intimidation against its critics," Keating said. He said he does not know whether such reports are true, but added: "If it should turn out that harassment, intimidation and economic blackmail are being used to interfere with individual freedom, then possibly legislation ought to be devised to protect the victims of such tactics."

### Objective Held Proper

Keating said the society's objective of influencing legislation is perfectly proper. But, he said, that obligates Congress "to determine whether the lobbying laws and the Corrupt Practices Act should be made applicable to the John Birch Society."

Keating made reference to the criticism of high American officials by the leader of the Birch Society, asserting:

"It is certainly no help to the cause of freedom to undermine confidence in the loyalty of the President of the United States, the head of the CIA, former Secretary of State Dulles, and other high Government officials, as the leader of the John Birch Society has done."

# Birch Probe By Congress Is Advocated

Keating, Democrat  
Call for an Inquiry

WASHINGTON— Apr. 23 (UPI)—A Republican Senator and a Democratic Representative called today for an investigation of the John Birch Society.

Sen. Kenneth B. Keating, R-N.Y., and Rep. John F. Shelley, D-Calif., said Congress should look into the anti-Communist organization. Sen. Keating pointed out that some members of the Birch Society had a set Congress for inquiries.

The New York Republican said the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee should conduct the investigation. If the committee finds it lacks jurisdiction, a special inquiry should be made, he said. He called for the investigation on his speech television program from New York.

## Poses a Problem

Rep. Shelley said in remarks prepared for delivery in the House tomorrow that the society posed a problem of whether it would be best to investigate it or ignore it.

The San Francisco Democrat said "extremist forces" of both left and right often had said "truth" after attracting "blatant interest and discussion." But he said the society should be subjected to "relentless public exposure" because of the tactics it uses.

He said the Birch Society uses the same methods as "the enemy it claims to be combating." Front organizations, pressure campaigns, an apparatus of intimidation with the smear, its hallmark and a crippling of the democratic process, its outcome.

## Refers to Methods

Sen. Keating also referred to the methods of the Birch Society.

"It is completely contrary to our system for any organization to set itself up as an infallible arbiter of what is correct and to smear all those who disagree with charges of being traitors or Communists," he said.

The Senator said an investigation was further justified by what he called the society's attempts to influence legislation and talk by its leaders of forming a third party in 1951.

## Potential Income

Sen. Keating said Congress should determine whether lobbying laws and the Corrupt Practices Act should be applied to the society. He said the society has a "potential income of over \$18,000 a year" under its dues schedule and membership goal. "Yet it is alleged that the society makes no accounting of its funds to its membership," he said.

"Certainly no corporation could operate in this manner," he added. "Even some unincorporated associations such as labor unions must file full financial reports with the government. Congress should certainly study the need for legislation to apply the same requirements to Birch-type organizations."

file

**Goldwater on John Birch:** Senator Goldwater, interviewed by the press in Los Angeles last week, was asked what he thought of the John Birch Society, which is now receiving some negative publicity.

Saying he is not a member of the organization, Goldwater replied: "I don't know much about the Society. They are anti-Communist and I don't see how we can be against that. A lot of people in my home town [Phoenix], both Democrats and Republicans, have been attracted to it, and I am impressed by the type of people in it. They are the kind we need in politics."

As reported by the Associated Press in a March 29 dispatch, newsmen asked Goldwater these questions:

*Does he agree with the Society that this republic is not a fit form of government with which to fight communism?* "I don't agree," Goldwater replied.

*Does he, like the Society, believe that former President Eisenhower was a tool of the Communists?* "I certainly don't."

*Does he agree with the Society that Chief Justice Earl Warren should be impeached?* "No, I don't."

Does he agree with the Society's contentions that the Communists have influenced some decisions of the Supreme Court? "I do not." Elaborating, Goldwater said: "I will admit that some of the recent Supreme Court decisions seemed favorable to the Communists."

Two questions asked by the newsmen contained inaccurate assumptions. The Society has never issued a statement that former President Eisenhower was a tool of the Communists. Such a remark was made by Robert Welch, the founder, in a confidential memo to a few of his friends one year before the Society was formed, but that statement never became a part of the Society's statement of beliefs.

The question asserting that the Society believes that "this republic is not a fit form of government with which to fight communism" is a flagrant distortion of one of the Society's slogans: "This is not a Democracy, but a Republic. Let's keep it so."

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## Why Is Rep. Walter Afraid To Investigate John Birch Society?

IT IS no surprise to note that Rep. Walter, chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee, has rejected a request from Rep. Henry Reuss of Milwaukee to investigate the John Birch Society.

Rep. Walter isn't going to investigate a group which has been a staunch pillar of support for the wretched work of the Committee he heads.

The HUAC chairman can't see anything un-American about a secret society headed by a man who believes that democracy is a "perennial fraud" or that ex-President Eisenhower is a Communist.

His attitude is further evidence that the chief test of un-Americanism for HUAC is whether one is for or against the Committee.

J. EDGAR HOOVER, who praised the late Sen. McCarthy as a great American and more recently intervened in an election to save one of McCarthy's supporters—Sen. Mundt of South Dakota—has been careful not to say anything critical of the Birch cult. Sen. Milton Young (R-N. D.), who has been attacked by the cult, demanded a statement from Hoover as to whether he endorsed the group or its activities, as has been reported.

He emphatically denied the report, but he significantly refrained from saying anything critical of the group, its beliefs and activities.

Sen. Eastland (D-Miss.), who heads the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, says he is "happy to state that it seems to be, from our records, a patriotic organization." Eastland, of course, would be greatly in sympathy with the cult's number one aim of impeaching Chief Justice Warren of the U. S. Supreme Court.

WHY should this group be protected? If it is a "patriotic" organization, as Sen. Eastland says, it may have some information about ex-President Eisenhower and his brother Milton that should be made known to the public. If the Central Intelligence Agency is headed by a Communist, the public should know about it.

Surely, these people who support HUAC so passionately cannot be utterly without responsibility. Among its members are three former heads of the National Association of Manufacturers, two of them prominent Republicans from Wisconsin—William Grede, Milwaukee industrialist, and Coia Parker of

Memphis.

Another member is T. Coleman Andrews, former head of the Internal Revenue Service under President Eisenhower and a candidate for president on the splinter group ticket in 1956. Another, Spruille Braden, is former ambassador to Argentina.

When men like this give their names to a movement which peddles the fiction that a president of the United States for two terms is a Communist they ought to be allowed to explain what they are talking about and to be questioned concerning it.

Let them go under oath and prove their charges.

What is Walter afraid of?

REP. DON L. SHORT, R-N.D., RECOMMENDED AN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S INVESTIGATION OF THE SOCIETY AS "GOOD" FOR ALL CONCERNED, BUT HE SAID THE STIGMA WHICH WOULD FOLLOW QUESTIONING BY WALTER'S COMMITTEE MIGHT BE UNFAIR. THE "RANK AND FILE MEMBERSHIP" MAY NOT REALIZE WELCH'S BACKGROUND OF CHARGES AGAINST SUCH OFFICIALS AS EISENHOWER, SHORT SAID.

"I'M SURE THERE'S A PLACE FOR CONSERVATIVE THINKING, BUT I HATE TO SEE IT GO TOO FAR, AND THE CHARGES AGAINST EISENHOWER ARE GOING TOO FAR," REP. EL I. BERRY, R-S.D., SAID.

HOWEVER, HE QUESTIONED WHETHER A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION WAS INDICATED. THE CLAMOR FOR WARREN'S IMPEACHMENT IS DISTASTEFUL BUT NOT UN-AMERICAN," HE SAID.

OTHER REPUBLICANS QUESTIONED SAID THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOCIETY WAS LIMITED TO WHAT THEY READ IN THE PRESS. THEY INDICATED THEY WOULD BE GLAD TO LEAVE IT AT THAT.

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(BIRCH)

WASHINGTON--MIDWESTERN REPUBLICANS TODAY GAVE LITTLE SUPPORT TO A DEMOCRAT'S REQUEST THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES INVESTIGATE THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY.

REP. HENRY S. REUSS, D-WIS., SAID THAT ANY SOCIETY "WHICH IS REPORTED TO HAVE STIGMATIZED AS COMMUNISTS SUCH PATRIOTIC AMERICANS AS FORMER PRESIDENT EISENHOWER, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN FORSTER DULLES, AND CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR ALLEN DULLES, IS A FIT SUBJECT FOR INVESTIGATION BY THE COMMITTEE,

REP. DONALD C. BRUCE, R-IND., SAID THESE ALLEGATIONS WERE MADE BY SOCIETY LEADER ROBERT WELCH BEFORE THE ORGANIZATION WAS FORMED. "THE MOST WELCH IS GUILTY OF IS MAKING IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS," HE SAID, AND TO ATTRIBUTE HIS PHILOSOPHY TO SOCIETY MEMBERS IS TO APPLY THE "GUILT BY ASSOCIATION" STANDARD, HE SAID.

"SOME MIGHTY GOOD PEOPLE IN INDIANAPOLIS ARE IN IT AND THEY DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM HURT," HE SAID.

BRUCE SAID HE WAS ASSEMBLING FACTS ON THE SOCIETY BUT THAT HE HAD FOUND NOTHING TO INDICATE THE GROUP IS "TOTALITARIAN." "THE STIR IT HAS CREATED 'IS A TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT.'"

REP. NATHAN MASON, R-ILL., SAID HIS MAIL HAS BEEN HEAVY SINCE HIS DISTRICT URGING HIM TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED INVESTIGATION BY CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN, ONE OF THE SOCIETY'S RECOMMENDED MEMBERS.

"THEY'VE ALL GONE IN THE WASTEBASKET," HE SAID.

OF REUSS' PROPOSED INVESTIGATION, HE SAID, "I DON'T THINK THE

COMMITTEE OUGHT TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THE SOCIETY.

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# House Group Moving To Probe Birch Society

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By DAVID E. BRODER  
Staff Writer

Chairman Walter of the House Un-American Activities Committee said today he has ordered a preliminary investigation of the activities of the John Birch Society, the controversial anti-Communist organization.

The investigation was requested earlier today by Representative Hiestand, Republican of California, a member of the Society. Mr. Hiestand said he was sure an honest inquiry would dispel charges that the society is a "dictatorial, fascist" organization.

Mr. Walter said the purpose of the preliminary investigation was to determine whether his committee has jurisdiction. Noting that its legislative charter limits its inquiries to the diffusion of propaganda attacking the principle or form of the United States Government, Mr. Walter said, "I don't see from the press reports anything this society has done that would bring it within the purview of this committee."

## Reuss Backs Inquiry

Representative Reuss, Democrat of Wisconsin, said today he also has requested an investigation as a result of numerous letters he said he received attacking Chief Justice Warren.

He reported that many of the letters were mimeographed and followed the same general line but usually did not identify the writers as members of the John Birch Society.

In a letter to Chairman Walter, Mr. Reuss said he believes the letters he has received originated with the society. He said propaganda organizations have



REPRESENTATIVE  
HIESTAND

a right to express their opinions. But in this instance there would be an attempt to determine who is behind these activities and they are financed and how they are carried on."

Mr. Hiestand became the first member of Congress to disclose the membership in the semi-secret society today. He was asked about it today by a number of fellow congressmen. He said he had been asked to join the society by a man who called himself "John Birch" and who said he was a member of the society.

Mr. Hiestand said he had viewed he had joined the group in California "quite a long time ago." He said, "I am sure there are other members of Congress who also joined the society. I believe each group has the right to decide for itself whether to join the membership."

The congressman said he was prompted to send his resignation letter to his constituents yesterday because a member of the other body, our Senate, has been putting a lot of time in the Congressional Record that is simply not correct."

Mr. Hiestand declined to identify the Society with whom he said Senator Philip H. Young, Republican of Utah, has been talking in the Senate and the House today.

years-old retired Boston candy

the former President Lyndon

Howe, Chief Justice Warren, said the society was secret. John Birch, and CIA Director Allen Dulles were secret Communist agents or sympathizers.

Senator Young called these charges "slandering" and said the society was devoted to democracy because it conducted "secret operations" and harassing tactics against public officials and private citizens with whom it disagreed.

Mr. Hiestand said he thought an investigation of the Birch Society by the House committee would put these charges to rest. He confirmed that members of the society have engaged in letter writing campaigns to Congress and to other public officials, but denied that the society conducted "secret operations."

The California House committee charged an "intricate story" that first appeared in what he called a "Communist Communist publication" and that members of Congress should beware of "repeating" accusations without origin they do not understand.

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He said they were being ordered up now in an effort to destroy the organization, public opinion. When an anti-Communist group is being hurt, Mr. Hiestand said, it is better to get in early than late. Senator Young said today he would stand by the committee in its effort to get the truth about the society.

By ERNEST R. FINGERSON  
(Washington Bureau Chief)  
Washington, March 30 — Individual senators of both parties today suggested a congressional investigation of the semi-secret superconservative John Birch Society.

And a California Republican said he himself was a member of the society, claiming "The big 80 per cent of its program is intense patriotism and anti-communism."

The John Birch Society is a  
 distant right-wing movement  
 claiming "ouls" in many males.  
 Its leader has pinned "Com-  
 munist," "pro-Communist," or  
 "traitor" labels on such Amer-  
 ican as former Presidents Eisen-  
 hower, Truman and Roosevelt,  
 Chief Justice Earl Warren, Sen.  
 William S. Eisenhower, Allen W.  
 Dulles, director of the Central  
 Intelligence Agency, and the late  
 John Foster Dulles.

Some senators who objected to his activities have been attacked and reacted with speeches of the floor of the Senate. Among them are the conservative Senator Volstead of North Dakota and the liberal Senator Kuchel of California, both Republicans.

Chairman of the Internal Security Subcommittee, stated during discussion of the society